

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111200Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3354

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 10998

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND CJCS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

REF: PHNOM PENH 10872

1. THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF ACTUAL CALL-UPS UNDER THE NEW CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN SEEM TO HAVE PRODUCED VERY MEAGRE RESULTS DESPITE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DAILY QUOTA OF AT LEAST 250 DRAFTEES. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FREE REICE RATION FOR GENERAL RESERVE TROOPS AND A TIGHTENING UP OF THE JOINT STAFF'S CONTROL MECHANISM WILL HOPEFULLY INCREASE THE YIELD, HOWEVER.

2. CHIEF OF THE JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF MG THAPPANA NGINN GAVE US 400 MEN AS A TENTATIVE FIGURE FOR THE FIRST DAY'S (OCTOBER 10) CALL-UP BUT EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH OPERATIONS. THE CITY GOVERNMENT REPORTS 73 DRAFTEES AND 14 VOLUNTEERS ON OCTOBER 10 AND 99 DRAFTEES WITH NO VOLUNTEERS TODAY (OCTOBER 11). WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THAPPANA NGINN HAS INCLUDED IN HIS TOTAL 350 MEN IN ONE SUBURB ACROSS THE BASSAC WHO VOLUNTEERED AS A GROUP FOR AN  
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INTERVENTION BRIGADE TO BE STATIONED NEAR THEIR HOMES. THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS GATHERED AT THE SUBDIVISION LEVEL ILLUSTRATE HOW THE PROGRAM IS PROGRESSING.

A. THE CITY'S LARGEST KHAND (SUBDIVISION), DECHIO, SENT OUT 800 CONVOCATIONS ON OCTOBER 10. FIFTY PERSONS PRESENTED THEMSELVES TO THE EXAMINING BOARD ON THAT DAY OF WHOM ONLY 15 WERE FOUND ELIGIBLE. ANOTHER 12 WERE DRAFTED AS OF NOON TODAY. A SECOND BATCH OF 800 CONVOCATIONS ARE TO BE ISSUED TOMORROW. THE CHIEF OF THIS SUBDIVISION APPEARS DEFEATIST AND TIMID, EXPRESSING GREAT DOUBT THAT HE CAN REACH HIS ASSIGNED DAILY QUOTA OF 80 AND UNWILLINGNESS TO SEEK EVADERS OUT.

B. THE SECOND LARGEST SUBDIVISION (SEREIRATH) ISSUED 300 CONVOCATIONS ON OCTOBER 10 WHICH PRODUCED 27 APPEARANCES AND 22 INDUCTEES, THE RECORD FOR THE CITY. AS OF NOON TODAY, 40 MORE MEN HAD REPORTED TO THE EXAMINING BOARDS OF WHOM 35 WERE DRAFTED. THE KHAND CHIEF IS AGGRESSIVE, HAS WARNED HIS SUBORDINATE WARD LEADERS TO PRODUCE MEN OR FACE POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT, AND EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO MEET HIS DAILY QUOTA OF 70.

C. THE SMALLER SUBDIVISION OF CHBAR AMPEOU (ACROSS THE BASSAC) IS APPARENTLY CONVOKING ONLY KNOWN ELIGIBLES. ITS ADMINISTRATION SENT OUT ONLY 22 CONVOCATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS WHICH PRODUCED, HOWEVER, 22 DRAFTEES. THIS IS WELL BELOW THE SUBDIVISION'S DAILY QUOTA OF 18.

3. THAPPANA NGINN ADMITTED TO US TODAY THAT THE JOINT STAFF'S INSPECTION AND CONTROL TEAMS HAVE NOT FUNCTIONED PROPERLY, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT BG CHEA KIM ENG HAS YET TO TAKE COMMAND. HE ASSURED US THAT AS OF NOON TODAY CHEA KIM ENG WOULD BECOME IN EFFECT HIS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND WOULD SEE THAT INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT'S CONSCRIPTION EFFORTS WOULD BE PERFORMED IN A MILITARY MANNER.

4. DURING A RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS LAST NIGHT ON THE RICE SITUATION, PRIME MINISTER IN TAM ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL RESERVE TROOPS WILL BE GRANTED A FREE RICE RATION.  
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THAPPANA NGINN TELL US THAT THIS NEW INCENTIVE WILL BE EMPHASIZED IN THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BEGINNING TODAY.  
ENDERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CJCS.

SECRET

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